

## Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

### Key Messages for SSE – February 3, 2022 4:00 PM

- Good afternoon. I will cover the situation in Ottawa first, and then move on to the Alberta protest.

#### Ottawa

- With respect to Ottawa, this is a multi-jurisdictional effort and stakeholders include the RCMP, PPS, OPP, Ottawa Police Service, SPVG, SQ, MRC des Collines, City of Ottawa, and Ville de Gatineau.
- Ottawa Police are the lead in this situation.
- A National Capital Region Command Centre (NCRCC) was stood up January 28<sup>th</sup> and will remain operational throughout this event. All partners are represented at the NCRCC, as well as a representative from the US Embassy given the potential impacts on that diplomatic site.
- We saw significant numbers of protestors in Ottawa over the weekend, but over the course of this week the daily number of protestors downtown has been much lower – in the range of 200 to 350 people.
  - At 2:57 PM, there were about 80 people on Parliament Hill, 200-300 on Wellington Street, and about 60 people in Confederation Park.
- Based on open source reporting, we are expecting those numbers to jump back up this coming weekend, with several convoys appearing to be pulling together to arrive in Ottawa on Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup>. The exact number of convoys and people is still to be determined.
- We are also seeing counter-protests starting to take place, and the City of Ottawa has already received applications for three counter-protests planned for Saturday.

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- While RCMP resources have been deployed, this has been in support of our protective mandate. However, I have received a request for 50 resources from Ottawa Police Service. I am looking at options to address this request based on our own operational pressures across the country, as well as to ensure that we provide Ottawa Police with the skill set they need.
- The return to Parliament has generally gone smoothly this week, with Parliamentarians able to access the Hill. Ingress and egress to and from the Supreme Court will also be provided to eight of our Justices. Set-up and resources are already in place to accommodate.
- There have been no incidents with anyone entering or exiting, nor have there been any incidents involving any of our protectees thus far.
- We continue to monitor for any changes in the threat level, and have increased patrols in some areas as a precautionary measure.
- Discussions are underway with OSGG to explore the feasibility of reopening the grounds of Rideau Hall to the public, which will be based on the threat and risk assessment.
- It is clear that the residents of Ottawa – as well as the Mayor and City Councillors – want this to end. Ultimately, that is a decision that the City and Ottawa Police will be responsible for making. I spoke with Chief Sloly earlier this afternoon, and his team continues to look at every possible option to bring this to an end.
- As of right now, it is still my understanding that the intention of Ottawa Police continues to be to use a measured approach and continue negotiations with the protest organizers.
- I'll be honest, this may not be something that can be negotiated out of, or resolved only with enforcement. There may need to be some other solutions, maybe the engagement of an interlocutor.

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- On a final note, the trucker's convoy GoFundMe account has been suspended, while undergoing a review, after raising over \$10 million dollars.

### Alberta

- Throughout this event, there have been a number of solidarity protests across the country.
- Last weekend we saw protests in multiple locations across British Columbia, as well as several in the Maritimes. There were also protests at the Woodstock and Windsor POEs. Most of these involved rallies and slow-rolls, ending without incidents other than traffic disruptions.
- In Manitoba, a Support Freedom Convoy in Emerson has been ongoing since last weekend. The convoy is approximately 3-4 semi-trucks and approximately 15 pickup trucks. Activity involves a slow roll 2-mile continuous loop along highway #75.
- Finally, there is the blockade in Coutts, Alberta. This is Alberta's largest POE, and the only one to operate 24 hours.
- Yesterday there was good news when protestors agreed to open one lane in each direction. The main site continues to remain stable and peaceful.
- However, congestion is growing at an RCMP checkpoint that was set up 18 km north of the main site (Checkpoint 10) on highway 4 for safety and security reasons.
- There is no indication that this group at Checkpoint 10 is connected in any way to the protest group at the Coutts Border main site, aside from being sympathizers.

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- Communication with the organizers at both the main site and Checkpoint 10 will continue with the intention of trying to stabilize Checkpoint 10 and resume regular escorts for traffic local to Coutts and legitimate border passage.
- For now, our plan is to stabilize the checkpoint and manage traffic flow through there. Efforts are ongoing to engage with the protestors with a view to resolving the situation.

### *Moving Forward*

- I expect this coming weekend will bring new challenges, with increasing numbers of protestors in Ottawa – and likely another wave of solidarity protests across the country.
- The RCMP will continue to work with our partners across Canada to ensure public safety as these events take place.

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